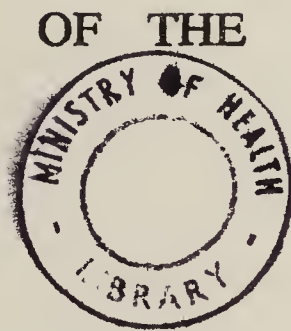


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The Urban District of Skelmersdale


Annual Report



Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1958



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The Urban District of Skelmersdale

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

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SKELMERSDALE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1958

Chairman A. Davies

Vice-Chairman H. Hardman

Chairman of the Health Committee T. Moston

E. BERRY

W. J. BROWN

J. CADWELL

A. DAVIES

H. EDDEN

T. A. FARRIMOND

W. J. FENNEY

H. HARDMAN

J. T. LATHAM

W. MIDDLEHURST

A. H. MORGAN

T. PYE

J. SHARROCK

J. T. WAREING

Medical Officer of Health:

J. GORDON HAILWOOD, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

(Part-time)

(Divisional Medical Officer, Lancashire County Council)

Public Health Inspector: ALBERT LAVELLE,

A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H., Cert. I., Hsg.

**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
HEALTH COMMITTEE**

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the District during 1958.

The general health has remained good, and infectious diseases have been almost non-existent, only five cases being notified during the year.

The birth rate for the year was 14.0 per 1,000 population.

The death rate was 12.4 per 1,000 population, which is a slight decrease on the figure of 12.6 for 1957.

The death occurred of two infants under twelve months, giving an infantile death rate of 22 per 1,000 live births. There were no maternal deaths

Housing conditions continue to improve and further progress was made during the year in the demolition of slum property, 38 houses being dealt with during the year.

Additional legislation conditions did increase the duties of the Public Health Inspector but a high standard of work has been maintained. He made 1,945 visits to inspect houses under the Public Health and Housing Act. In addition, he made 481 other visits.

Finally, I would thank the Members of the Health Committee for their interest and encouragement, and the Staff for their ready co-operation at all times.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. G. HAILWOOD.

July, 1959.

Area of the District — 1,942 acres.

Resident Population (Registrar General's estimate at mid-1958)—6,360.

Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books at end of 1958—2,119.

Rateable Value—£37,760.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£145.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1958

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births	44	45	89
Live birth rate per 1,000 population ...			14.9
Still Births	1	1	2
Still birth rate per 1,00 live and stil births			22.0
Total Live and Still Births	45	46	91
Deaths	33	29	62
Death rate per 1,000 poulation			12.4
Infant Deaths	1	1	2
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births			22.5
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births legitimate ...			22.5
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births illegitimate			Nil
Neo-Natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births ... (first four weeks)			22.5
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births ...			Nil
Maternal deaths (including abortion)			Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births			Nil

**CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE
SKELMERSDALE URBAN DISTRICT, 1958**

	Male	Female
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	—	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other infective or parasitic diseases	—	—
Cancer	4	4
Diabetes	2	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	3
Heart diseases	15	11
Other Circulatory diseases	—	—
Influenza	—	—
Pneumonia	1	2
Bronchitis	2	—
Other diseases of respiratory system	3	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth abortion	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	7
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—
All other accidents	—	—
Suicide	—	—
Homicide and Operations of War	—	—
Totals ...	33	29

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICE FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

Pathological specimens of a simple nature, throat swabs etc., are sent for examination at the E.M.S. Pathological Laboratory at the Ormskirk County Hospital. All other specimens are sent to the City Laboratories, Liverpool.

Ambulance Facilities

Ambulance Services are provided by the County Council under the National Health Service Act, 1946.

Clinics and Treatment Centres

A Congregational Schoolroom in Witham Road is utilised every Wednesday morning as a Child Welfare Centre and Minor Ailments Clinic, under the direction of Dr. J. Willins and Nurse Bodley of the Lancashire County Council. An Immunisation Clinic is held on the fourth Wednesday afternoon in each month at 2-15 on the same premises by Dr. Willins.

HOSPITALS

There are no hospitals in the town.

The Ormskirk County Hospital and the Wigan Hospitals provide ample accommodation for all patients from Skelmersdale.

Infectious cases are admitted to the New Hall Isolation Hospital, Scarisbrick.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The township is supplied with water by the Southport and District Water Board.

Water is pumped from two boreholes some 750 feet deep at Scarth Hill into the adjoining water tower from which it gravitates through a

7 inch main to the district. This pumping station formerly belonged to the Council who sold it to the Southport and District Water Board in 1907. The district mains are still owned by the Council. It is very likely that many of these older mains will be badly corroded owing to the constantly acid nature of the water and the large amount of free carbon dioxide it carries. The water supply is, however, of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity.

Due to the Council's post-war building programme and modernisation of existing old houses, the pressure in the higher parts of the town is poor at certain periods of the week. The Council are negotiating with the Southport and District Water Board to consider the question of an improvement in supply.

Sewage Disposal

The district is sewered on the partly separate system. The sewage from approximately 1,700 houses is discharged by gravity through a 24 inch outfall sewer at the Council's Berry Street Disposal Works, and that from approximately 350 houses, by a 15 inch outfall sewer at the Pennyland Works.

Sewage from a small number of houses in the Stormy Area is discharged into settling tanks at the rear of Summer Street.

The sewage at Berry Street is treated by settlement and land irrigation, and is in urgent need of modernisation.

The sewage at Pennyland is treated by sedimentation and filtration and considerable improvement has been made in the quality of the effluent.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Privy Middens—15. Number of closets attached to these middens—26.

Number of pail closets—51.

Number of dry ashpits (excluding middens)—Nil.

Number of moveable ashbins—2,110.

Number of houses on water carriage system—2,049.

Number of water closets (including schools etc.)—2,101.

HOUSING

Number of New Houses erected during the year:

(i)	By the Local Authority	33
(ii)	By other Local Authorities	—
(iii)	By other bodies or persons	9

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	686
	(b)	Number of inspections, formal or informal made for the purpose	1,945
(2)		Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:	
	(a)	Number found during the year	15
	(b)	Number (or estimated number) at end of year ...	250
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, but capable of being rendered fit	295

2. Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954)

(1)		Number of dwelling houses demolished during the year:	
	(a)	Unfit houses	NIL
	(b)	Other houses	NIL
(2)		Number of persons displaced	NIL

3. Houses not included in Clearance Areas:

	No. of	
	Houses	Persons Displaced
(1) Houses demolished or closed during year.		
(a) Housing Act, 1936:—		
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11)	8	7
(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force	—	—
(iii) Parts of building closed (Section 12)	—	—
(b) Housing Act, 1949:—		
(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Section 3 (1) and 3 (2)	—	—
(c) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953:—		
(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 10 (1) and 11 (2)	—	—

(2) Repairs during the year:—

- (a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under Housing or Public Health Acts 279
- (b) Public Health Acts — action after service of formal notice — Houses in which defects were remedied:—
- (i) By Owners 55
- (ii) By Local Authority in default of owners NIL

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| (c) | Housing Act, 1936 — action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16). Houses made fit: | |
| | (i) By Owners | NIL |
| | (ii) By Local Authority in default of Owners | NIL |
| (d) | Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954:— | |
| | Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5) | NIL |

4. Unfit Houses in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954)

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| (1) | Number of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7 | NIL |
| (2) | Number of separate dwellings contained in (1) above | NIL |
| (3) | Number of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6) | NIL |

5. Housing Act, 1949 — Improvement Grants etc:—

Action during the year NIL

INFECTIOUS DISEASE STATISTICS

[illegible]

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1958

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Total Cases at all Ages	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED													Total Deaths	Hospital Total Deaths in Cases removed of persons to belonging Hospital to district
		YEARS														
		Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & up- wards			
SMALLPOX	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
SCARLET FEVER	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
DIPHTHERIA	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
ENTERIC FEVER	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
PARA-TYPHOID FEVER	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
PUERPERAL PYREXIA ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	
ERYSIPELAS	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
POLIOMYELITIS	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
ACUTE PNEUMONIA	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
MEASLES	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
WHOOPING COUGH	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
FOOD POISONING	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
DYSENTERY	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
ANTHRAX	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
OPHTHALMIA	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
NEONATORUM	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
PULMONARY	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
TUBERCULOSIS	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	
NON-PULMONARY	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
TUBERCULOSIS	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTALS	8	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	

The following table shows the number, monthly distribution and nature of cases of Infectious Diseases coming under the notice of the Medical Officer of Health during 1958.

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals	Removed to Hospital
ANTHRAX	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
SMALLPOX	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
SCARLET FEVER	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
DIPHTHERIA	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ENTERIC FEVER	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
PARA-TYPHOID FEVER ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ACUTE PNEUMONIA	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
PUERPERAL PYREXIA	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
MALARIA	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
DYSENTARY	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
MEASLES	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
WHOOPING COUGH	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ERYSIPELAS	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
OPHTHALMIA	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
NEONATORUM	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	5	1

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The number of children who have completed a full course of Immunisation during the year ended 31st December, 1958, is as follows:

Children between the ages 0-4 years—79, and children between the ages 5-15—4, making a total of 83.

There has been no incidents or mortality from Diphtheria during the past ten years.

SCARLET FEVER

TABLE SHOWING INCIDENCE AND MORTALITY FROM SCARLET FEVER, 1949-1958

[illegible]

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1958

		New Cases				Age Periods Deaths			
		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	.....	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	.....	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	.....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	.....	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
		3		—		—		—	

Dispensary and sanatorium treatment for Tuberculosis is administered by the appropriate department of the Lancashire County Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1958

The effects of the Rent Act, 1957, began to show itself during 1958 when considerable repairs were carried out to rented property in the town. Only the fringe of the problem was touched as little in the way of repairs had been carried out since 1939. It is anticipated that extensive repairs will be carried out in 1959.

HOUSING

(a) Improvement

No grants have been made under the Housing Act.

(b) Repairs

A start has been made on making up the lee way on the repairs to rented houses, which arose because of the last war. It would appear that the Rent Act, 1957, offers a greater incentive to owners than did the Housing Repairs and Rents Act of 1954.

(c) Slum Clearance

A clearance order of 24 houses was confirmed by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

8 houses were demolished, and 6 recommended for clearance were purchased by the Council.

FOOD

(a) Premises

Occupiers are maintaining their premises in satisfactory condition. 1 greengrocery shop was refitted during the year.

(b) Unsound Food

The following articles, unfit for human consumption, have been surrendered by food retailers:—

Food	Weight
Turkey	12 lbs.
Boiled Ham	25 lbs.
Tinned Beef	14 lbs.
Tinned Pork	4 lbs.

Tinned Chicken	4 lbs.
Tinned Fish	3 lbs.
Tinned Soup	1 lb.
Tinned Vegetables	10 lbs.
Tinned Fruit	17 lbs.
Tinned Milk	1½ lbs.
Cheese	¼ lb.

(c) Adulteration of Food

The following report has been submitted by the Lancashire County Council whose Sampling Officer took the following samples for analysis by the County Analyst.

A total of 24 samples was obtained, consisting of 10 samples of milk, and 14 others comprising:—

- 1 Semolina
- 1 White pepper
- 1 Cream of tartar
- 1 Mustard
- 4 Vegetables — canned
- 1 Glycerin of borax
- 1 Blaids pill
- 2 Saccharin tablets
- 1 Teething powders
- 1 Compound codeine tablets

The samples were submitted to the County Analyst for analysis, and all were reported to be genuine.

DAIRIES

There is only one registered dairy, and this has been inspected and maintained in a satisfactory condition.

Milk Retailers Licences

The following were issued during the year:—

Tuberculin Tested	.....	4
Pasteurised	.....	7
Sterilised	.....	25

Milk Sampling

The following samples were submitted for examination:—

Grade	Test	Samples	Satisfactory
T.T. Raw	T.B.	4	4

ICE CREAM

There are 21 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream. There are no manufacturers.

All retailers maintained their premises in a satisfactory condition during the year, and each have satisfactory washing facilities, including a constant supply of hot water.

6 Ice Lollies were submitted for analysis and all were reported satisfactory.

RODENT CONTROL

Routine inspections for the destruction of rats and mice were carried out, and treatment done by the part-time Rodent Operator. Private premises were treated free of cost, and a charge made for business premises, using "Warfarin". No major infestations were discovered.

Maintenance treatment for the destruction of rats in sewers were carried out in March and September, using alternatively the poisons Zinc Phosphide and Arsenic. There is no serious re-infestation of the sewers.

Attention was paid to the control of infestation at the Council's Sewage Works and Refuse Tip.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

This service is carried out under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector. A Karrier Diesel-driven 10 cubic yard freighter is used for the purpose.

Dustbins and pail closets are emptied weekly and privy middens as often as possible.

15 middens serving 26 houses remain in the outlying areas. Of these, 14 houses are scheduled for demolition and action has been taken to eliminate the other 12 houses.

SALVAGE

Waste paper is collected and placed in sacks on the back of the freighter.

20 tons 18 cwt. were sold during the year, the value being £135.

SHOPS

There are 106 shops on the register, and 203 visits were made during the year.

Duties under the Shops Act, 1950 relating to the employment of young persons, washing facilities etc., were carried out on behalf of the County Council.

SCHOOLS

The dinner service fooms and sanitary accommodation at each of the four schools have been inspected.

Defects found in relation to the rooms used for the service of meals were notified to the Education Authority and improvements have been carried out or are in hand.

FACTORIES

Routine visits have been made to the factories in the district and any defects found, remedied without the serving of formal notice.

ATMOSPHERE POLLUTION

A number of visits have been made to 5 factories with boiler houses in the district. In 3 instances it was necessary to bring the attention of the management to a smoke nuisance, and the emission of smoke has been considerably reduced.

SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Number of dwelling houses inspected under Public Health and Housing Acts	686
Number of inspections made for above purposes	1945
Visits to factories and work places	38
Visits to food premises	96
Visits to infectious diseases	2
Visits to schools	10
Visits to licensed premises	14
Visits to shops	203
Visits to hawkers' vehicles	15
Visits re rodent control	99
Visits re bacteriological samples of milk	4
Number of preliminary notices served	262
Number of preliminary notices complied with	211
Number of statutory notices served	56
Number of statutory notices complied with	55

